

SAVANNA OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL



CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

SIXTH GRADE

2023 – 2024



Savanna Oaks

Principal

Quinn Craugh

Middle School

Associate Principal

Pete Christofferson

February 2023

Dear Savanna Oaks Families,

This Curriculum Handbook describes the sequence of classes and choices each learner may make as he or she navigates 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at Savanna Oaks.

All students' core classes include language arts, math, science and social studies. Encore and exploratory classes are offered in the areas of music, physical education, family and consumer education, art and technology education.

Savanna Oaks staff provide instruction in a variety of ways to ensure we differentiate for each learner. We value student voice to help us ensure a personalized learning approach that we believe will meaningfully engage each learner at his or her next steps. We offer students choice in activities that will empower them to explore and demonstrate mastery of learning standards.

We hope you will find the handbook to be a practical guide to you as you examine the required and elective course offerings.

If you have any questions relating to our curriculum, please call Savanna Oaks Middle School at 845-4000.

Sincerely,

Quinn Craugh, Principal
Savanna Oaks Middle School

The Verona Area School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex or sexual orientation, economic status, age, national origin, handicap, marital status, political affiliation, arrest or conviction record or any other factor provided for by state and federal laws and regulations.

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SIXTH GRADE CLASSES

CORE Classes

Language Arts
Math
Science
Social Studies
Read to Succeed (R2S)

ENCORE/EXPLORATORY Classes

Physical Education

Art
Family and Consumer Education (FACE)
Information and Technology Literacy
Youth Empowerment, Justice and Joy
Spanish Language Arts

Music Options:

Band
Choir
Orchestra
General Music

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SIXTH GRADE

CORE Classes

Language Arts

The English/Language Arts classroom is taught using a workshop model with an emphasis on writing and reading skills. Our units of study in writing include narrative, informational, and opinion pieces. Grammar and usage are studied throughout the year. The writing process and speaking and listening skills are integral parts of instruction. During reading, the focus is on increasing reading comprehension using these strategies: predicting, inferring, questioning, connecting, summarizing, visualizing, synthesizing, and evaluating. Our units of study include elements of both fiction and non-fiction, and use novels, short stories, and a variety of other texts to read for information and enjoyment. Student choice, small group discussions, and speaking and listening skills are an integral part of instruction.

Math

The 6th grade math curriculum is built off of the Common Core Mathematics Standards. The topics covered are Number Systems, Geometry, Ratios and Proportions, Expressions and Equations, and Statistics and Probability. Work to reach mastery in basic math skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) with rational numbers is required of all sixth grade students. The focus is on building a deep understanding and being able to communicate and articulate about math independently, in small groups and whole class discussions/activities. Students are offered challenge problems to advance their skills and independent practice via IXL for scaffolds and extensions.

Science

The sixth grade curriculum incorporates a hands-on approach to learning that allows students to develop their skills of inquiry and gain confidence in dealing with the open-endedness of the scientific method. Group and individual lab work, teacher demonstrations, problem-solving activities, and research support the learning of astronomy, engineering, geology, meteorology, and ecology concepts. Students will demonstrate the knowledge gained through a variety of assessments including projects.

Social Studies

Sixth grade social studies focuses on current issues, geography, and human behavior through the study of the Western Hemisphere. Print and technology resources are examined as evidence sources. Work on the standards is also integrated into study of the ancient civilizations of Latin America. By means of research and discussion, students come to recognize interdependence as key in their study of people, cultures, the land, history and economy of world regions.

Read to Succeed (R2S)

Read to Succeed is a dedicated time and space to foster a love of reading. Students are supported in selecting books, communicating around reading, and setting individual reading goals.

ENCORE/EXPLORATORY CLASSES

Physical Education

In sixth grade physical education, units include jogging and fitness, fitness testing, track and field, team building, and cooperative games. We work to create a positive learning experience that capitalizes on each student's natural love of movement. We encourage students of all athletic abilities to learn and play to the best of their ability. This philosophy helps to create a positive attitude about physical activity and set the stage for a healthy, active life.

Each sixth grader takes Art, Family and Consumer Education, Information and Technology Literacy and Youth Empowerment, Justice and Joy. A description of each class is listed below.

Art

Art in sixth grade focuses on the understanding of art through hands-on learning experiences. This course is the foundation for the sequential learning process in the middle school art program. The areas of focus are: contour line drawing, introduction to composition, value drawing (working with light & shadow), color theory, painting skills, and clay sculpting techniques. Art history is explored through the study of various artists and cultures. In addition, students learn how to analyze and interpret visual images.

Family and Consumer Education

In sixth grade Family and Consumer Education, students explore a number of areas related to the family and the individual. These areas are sewing, independent living skills, personal financial literacy, bullying prevention, and human growth and development.

Information and Technology Literacy

Tech 2.0-provides students with an introduction to the Design Process, Computer Science, 3D-Design, and Robotics. While exploring a variety of technology tools, students will work on the following goals throughout the course: Creativity and Innovation, Communication and Collaboration, Research and Fluency, Critical Thinking, Digital Citizenship, and Technology Concepts.

Youth, Empowerment, Justice & Joy

Students will be empowered to advocate for themselves and others through the study of identity, culture, and relationships in order to promote justice and fairness for all groups. Students will engage with multiple perspectives through critical literacy and discussion to develop actionable ways to improve our society.

Spanish Language Arts

This class teaches the principles of language arts in Spanish to heritage Spanish speakers. Students read, write, speak, and listen to Spanish in an academic setting and create projects, complete homework, and complete summative assessments. The class is conducted in Spanish, and various topics are taught, including identity, health, heritage, geography, diverse cultures, and education while aligning with the Common Core Language Arts Standards.

MUSIC CLASSES

All sixth graders are involved in **at least one** of the music programs which include: Band, Orchestra, Choir, or General Music. Participation in a performance class (band, choir, or orchestra) is a one year commitment.

Band

Sixth grade band is a daily academic class for beginning wind and bells players. Students choose to play flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or bells. Through listening to and performing music from many styles and genres, students will learn performance skills on their instrument, but will also grow as critical thinkers, expert noticers, and overall well-rounded learners. Throughout the school year, students will perform, create, connect, and respond to music, while growing their technical skills and increasing their music literacy. Students will demonstrate their learning at three to four evening performances each year. No prior experience is required to participate in the sixth grade band.

Choir

Sixth grade choir is a daily academic class for beginning singers. Singers learn the use of their vocal instrument through correct posture, breathing, and exercises in tone production and movement. Through listening to and performing music from many styles and genres, students will learn performance skills on their vocal instrument, but will also grow as critical thinkers, expert noticers, and overall well-rounded learners. Throughout the school year, students will perform, create, connect, and respond to music, while growing their technical skills and increasing their music literacy. Students will demonstrate their learning at three to four evening performances each year. No prior experience is required to participate in sixth grade Choir.

Orchestra

Sixth grade orchestra is a daily academic class for beginning string players. Students choose to play violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Through listening to and performing music from many styles and genres, students will learn performance skills on their instrument, but will also grow as critical thinkers, expert noticers, and overall well-rounded learners. Throughout the school year, students will perform, create, connect, and respond to music, while growing their technical skills and increasing their music literacy. Students will demonstrate their learning at three to four evening performances each year. No prior experience is required to participate in sixth grade orchestra.

General Music

General Music is offered to those students who do not wish to take Band, Orchestra, or Choir. This class provides an overview of music as a whole, and continues the elementary music classroom experience. Students will gain an appreciation of various types of music through both listening to and making music.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We believe strongly in providing additional resources beyond the classroom to facilitate the learning of our students.

Library Media Center

The Savanna Oaks LMC supports classroom instruction, research and recreational reading for students and staff. With over 9,000 books, magazines, audiobooks, and DVDs, the LMC has resources for students of various reading levels and interests. The collection is made up of current, peer reviewed materials that provide readers with the best of middle-grade publications. The Librarian promotes reading through booktalks, book displays, fun activities and one-on-one reader advisories. Students are encouraged to make use of the LMC website which is linked from the VASD webpage. Click on "LINKS FOR STUDENTS" to discover links to the online catalog, online resources, authors, books, ebooks, audiobooks, and research databases. (www.verona.k12.wi.us **Links for Students- @ Your Library, LMC Destiny**)

Extra Curricular Activities

An important part of middle school is the expanded opportunities available outside the school day. Savanna Oaks offers learning, enrichment, athletic and service opportunities. There is a late bus to provide transportation home. While specific activities vary, below are some of the offerings.

Volleyball	Grades 7, 8, Girls; Fall
Cross Country	Grades 6, 7, 8, Boys & Girls; Fall
Wrestling	Grades 6, 7, 8, Boys & Girls; Fall
Drama Club	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall - Spring
Student Council	Grades 6, 7, 8; Fall - Spring
Pep Band	Grades 7, 8; October - May
Ski Club	Grades 6, 7, 8; Winter
Boys' Basketball	Grades 7, 8; November & December
Girls' Basketball	Grades 7, 8; January & February
All School Musical	Grades 6, 7, 8; February – May
Track	Grades 7, 8; Spring

After-school Clubs

Our after-school programming depends on our ability to staff the clubs. We invite students to voice their ideas for after-school clubs. We offer Affinity Groups for students to have small communities to explore and discuss cultural and diverse topics. Clubs we were able to run during the 2022-23 school year include: Student Council, Cooking Club, Black Student Union, Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), Latino Nation, Asian Youth Club (AYC), Dungeons and Dragons.

Note: Clubs may not run every week and are at the discretion of the Club sponsor.